

V E R S E S,

ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO HAVE BEEN SPOKEN,

A T T H E

Breaking-up of the FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

I n M A N C H E S T E R,

For the C H R I S T M A S H O L I D A Y S,

I n t h e Y E A R M D C C L X X X I I .



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TO CHARLES LAWSON, M. A.

HEAD MASTER OF THE FREE SCHOOL,

IN MANCHESTER.

DEAR SIR,

WHEN I wrote the following Verses, it was my Intention to have asked your Permission that they might be spoken, by my Boy, at the Breaking-up of the Grammar School for the Christmas Holidays.—Several Reasons induced me to change my Resolution.—You, Sir, were to be answerable for the Merit of the Exercises produced, and my Pretensions are extremely slender to the Name of Poet.—Besides, they contain a Line or two, which I believed your Modesty would not suffer to be repeated, but which I cou'd not prevail upon myself to expunge.

In laying them before you, I have no other Motive but to seize an Opportunity of expressing my Gratitude for the Obligations I think I have received from YOU and Mr. DARBEY in the Education of my Sons.—The Reputation of your School stands too high in the Opinion of the World for it to need the Tribute of my Applause—but, Sir, I have an Heart extremely sensible of the Favours which are conferr'd upon me, and I shall always think it an Happiness to be allowed to subscribe myself

With the sincerest Esteem,

Your most obedient

Humble Servant,

THE AUTHOR.

BIRCH HOUSE, FARNWORTH, NOV. 25, 1782.

*Johning Nasbotham Esq: of
Birch House.*



Purus et insons
(*Ut me collaudem*) *si vivo, et carus Amicis*;
Causa fuit Pater his: qui macro pauper Agello
Noluit in Flavi Ludum me mittere.

HOR.

WHILST ROME, 'midst Conquest, look'd with proud Disdain
On Nations crouching to receive her Chain,
No Rank in Life——attend me all ye Fair——
Gave Dispensation from *maternal* Care.——
As *Lictors* round their trophied *Fasces* bore, 5
The Consul listen'd to the Matron's Lore:
Women were *then* with *manly* Wisdom fraught,
And great CORNELIA not ignobly taught.
Thus, *mighty* JULIUS, lisping at her Knee,
AURELIA led, thro' helpless Infancy.—— 10
Thus CÆSAR's SISTER, her OCTAVIUS train'd,
To guide that Empire, he so well maintain'd.

To Care like this, if Gratitude be due,——
These *infant* Lips confess'd a Mother too:
And if, *thus young*, I'm order'd to this Chair—— 15
She early sent me——no bad Scholar here.

Strange was it deem'd that I shou'd quit my Toys
To run the Gantlet of superior Boys——

L. 3. *Attend me, &c.*) It hath been usual for the Ladies to attend the Breaking-up of the School. This hath frequently occasioned a Smile amongst Gentlemen, of not, possibly, greater Learning than themselves. —Perhaps not many of the Fair Sex may be benefited by the Recital of a Latin Declamation, or a Greek Epigram—but where is the Sister who is not sensible of a Brother's Praise, where the Mother whose Breast does not glow with the Applauses given to her Son?—and, certainly, *at least*, as much *moral* Instruction may be glean'd from the Exercises upon these Occasions, part of which are commonly in English, as from the Repetition of the best *Italian* Opera, whatever Stamp the fashionable World may have been pleased to impose upon such Amusements.

L. 8. *Cornelia.*) *Cornelia* the Mother of the *Gracchi*, is celebrated in ancient History, for the Attention which she paid to the Education of her Children.

L. 10. *Aurelia led, &c.*) Antiquity is loud in the Praises of *Aurelia* the Mother of *Julius Cæsar*, from whom he is said to have received the first Rudiments of his Education, and the same Commendation is given to *Attia*, Cæsar's Sister, who superintended that of her Son, the young *Octavius*, afterwards *Augustus Cæsar*.

Shou'd fight, *perhaps*, with hundreds in a Day ———
But *she* was right,——and I have made my Way.

20

Thus to his Son, *immortal* RALEGH said,
“ ’Tis better not to be, than be ill-bred.——
This was the Lore, the THEBAN CYNIC taught.——
And *thus* great PHILIP——*thus* ÆMILIUS thought:
Thus too, my Sire.——To Merit never blind,
No *mean* illiberal Views debas’d his Mind,
No *factious* Policy,—— no *frantic* Zeal,
Warp’d his firm Breast from what *he* thought my Weal,——
Awhile he mus’d before he fix’d his Choice;
Then gave *his* Plaudit, with the public Voice.

25

30

In *future Times*, *perhaps*, th’ historic Muse
Shall pen the Names of JACKSON—ARNOLD—HUGHES——
Shall tell your Sons, how from *this Source* they drew
All HORACE warbled, and all HOMER knew——
How GEORGE THE GOOD, with *patriotic* Care,
Hence chose Preceptors to instruct his Heir;
How young ERNESTUS *hence* was richly fraught;
And GEORGE THE FOURTH *approved*, what LAWSON *sagely* taught.

35

Paternal Fondness in a *Monarch* charms
Who stands erect ’gainst half the Globe in Arms;

40

L. 21. *Immortal Raleigh said*, &c.) The following Passage is extracted from his Remains, in which his Advice to his Son—(a Book too little known) contains many valuable Precepts. “ Better were it to be unborn than ill bred; for thereby thy Posterity shall either Perish, or remain a Shame to thy Name and Family.—— (Remains, p. 87.)

L. 23. *The Theban Cynic.*) Crates was a Cynic of *Thebes*, tho’ I believe there was an Athenian Philosopher of the same Name.—The Story, as I have somewhere read it, stands thus, “ Crates, a Philosopher, wish’d “ to be on the Pinnacle of the highest Steeple in *Athens*, that he might cry aloud to the Citizens, O senseless “ Generation! how foolish are ye to heap up Wealth, and yet to neglect the Education of your Children for “ whom ye amass it.”—I have attributed this Story to the *Theban*, rather than to the *Athenian* Philosopher, as perfectly agreeing with the Character of his Sect.

L. 24. *Great Philip.*) It is universally known that *Philip*, King of *Macedon*, immediately upon the Birth of *Alexander*, wrote a Letter, which does him the greatest Honour to *Aristotle*, desiring that he would take upon him the Conduct of his Infant’s Education.

Ib. *Thus Æmilius thought.*) For the Particulars of *Paulus Æmilius*’s Care in the choice of his Son’s Tutors, I must refer the Reader to *Plutarch*.

L. 32. *Jackson—Arnold—Hughes.*) The Names of Gentlemen who had here the whole, or, at least, a great Part of their Grammar School Education.—The two first successively Sub-Preceptors to the *Prince of Wales*, —and the last to Prince *Ernest Augustus*, if the Court Kalendar doth not deceive me.

Like some tall Oak whose Branches pierce the Skies——
Untaught to bow, whatever Storms may rise.——
 Or like that Rock, which, *tow'ring* o'er the Main,
Bids great Defiance to *desponding Spain*;
 Where, *doing Honour* to their native Soil
Mancunian Warriors share the glorious Toil;
 Whilst on its Foes an ELLIOT's *Light'nings* hurl'd,
Strike with Astonishment the Western World.——

45

Such GEORGE appears——nor be her Fame un Sung,
 Whose *Incantations* hang on ev'ry Tongue——
 Illustrious CHARLOTTE!——whose *diffusive Sense*
 Spreads itself round in *vast Benevolence*.——
 —So the chaste Moon extends her *Silver Ray*,
 Far as the Influence of the God of Day.——
 —Oh! had I Power, each Mattin shou'd be giv'n
 To sing this worthiest Delegate of Heav'n. ——
 —Excuse this faint Attempt——Oh! had I Power
 Her Virtues shou'd engross each Evening Hour——
 And, in accord with MUTTLEBURY's Praise
 Thro' this tall Dome shou'd loud resound my Lays,

50

55

60

When this LYCEUM first our Founder rear'd,
 And, o'er that Door, was plac'd th' *Athenian Bird*,
 His Charity was to *no Place* confin'd,
 But spread itself, *expansive as the Wind*:——
 His Love of Knowledge gave a gen'ral Call,
 And the *Good Prelate*——*op'd his Arms*——to all.

65

Inspir'd by him —— here chaunts his Maker's Ways
 The helpless Orphan——taught to read his Praise;

L. 46. *Mancunian Warriors, &c.*) The *Manchester* Regiment which was raised in the latter End of the Year 1777 and the beginning of the Year 1778, (by a voluntary Subscription of the Gentlemen of that Town and Neighbourhood) was soon after sent to Gibraltar—where it has amply shared in the Dangers and Honours of the gallant Defence of that Fortrefs.

L. 59. *Muttlebury.*) A young Gentleman, Son to one of the Royal Nurses, educated upon this Foundation under the Queen's Patronage.

L. 61. *Our Founder.*) Hugh Oldham, D. D. Bishop of *Exeter*, founded this School in the Year 1519, and an Owl, (his Crest) was originally placed in the Wall of the Gable End of the Building.

The Tale mysterious— (so the Doctrine seem'd)
Of Man forsaken, and of Man redeem'd. —

70

Where Commerce spreads her splendid Blessings round—
The Merchant—first—stood on this Clastic Ground:
Here trac'd the Windings of each distant Shore,
And learnt from whence to dig the glitt'ring Ore. —

See the wan Cheek its *native Hue* resumes,
And the pale Nymph in *pristine Beauty* blooms! —
Blest by the God who boasts his healing Pow'rs,
Hark—READING callsher great MACHAON ours.

75

Lo—Senates meet, and firm Battalions yield,
A glist'ning Harvest thro' the tented Field—
Anxious alike to save a sinking Land,
Here EGERTON—there STANLEY takes his Stand, —
Here once they stood—In Infancy intent,
On whate'er CÆSAR wrote, or mightier TULLY meant

80

Form'd for the Bar, our ARDEN pleads the Cause
Of injur'd Innocence, and injur'd Laws,
Fated to be, when Furrows grace his Brow,
What *modest* YATES was once, and MANSFIELD's now. —

85

Hail to the Youths who trust the Faithless Main,
Allur'd by Honour—not *seduc'd* by Gain—
Who burn in Climes where Spices taint the Air;
Or plow thro' Ice beneath the frozen Bear—

90

L. 78. *Our great Machaon.*) Dr. Taylor, of Reading, received Part of his Education at this School. His Merit deserves every Kind of Applause,—he was once pleased to say, that his Application to the Study of Physic, arose from a Conversation which passed under my Roof, and it gives me Pleasure that I have this public Opportunity of declaring that I am honoured by his Friendship.

L. 82. *Egerton—Stanley*) Sir Thomas Egerton, Bart. Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant of the Lancashire Volunteers, and Thomas Stanley, Esquire, Representatives in Parliament for the County of Lancaster.

L. 84. *Mightier Tully.*) “ Does any Man pretend to have more good Sense than *Julius Caesar*? yet that
“ haughty Conqueror we know was so subdued by the Charms of *Cicero's* Eloquence, that he was, in a Man-
“ ner constrained to change his settled Purpose and Resolution, and to absolve a Criminal, whom, before
“ that Orator appeared, he was determined to condemn. (Hume's *Ess. mor. pol.* p. 147.)

L. 85. *Arden.*) Richard Pepper Arden, Esq; now Solicitor General.

Such Youths are ours—Go, my young School Mates go,
 And tear your Laurels from th' affrighted Foe—
 With all *your* Acts bid CLIO croud her Page,
 And be the RODNEYS of the coming Age.—

95

Far calmer Scenes my serious Thoughts engage,
 Destin'd to tread on no tumultuous Stage.—
 Oh! be to me, that first of Blessings given,
 To lead *your* Souls with Ecstasy to Heav'n—
 To calm the Death Bed, agonizing Sigh,
 And teach repentant Sinners how to die.

100

—Here let me pause—and let me drop a Tear
 On tuneful BYROM's, and on THYER's Bier.—
 Consign'd *for ever* to the *silent* Tomb,
 No more their Lines shall echo thro' this Room:—
 But tho' the Grave hath claim'd its Debt—yet while
Relentless Time shall spare this *mould'ring* Pile,
 Fame—*grateful Fame*—shall make them both her Care
 And Emulation tell what once they were.

105

110

D. R. *Scholæ Mancuniensis Alumnus.*

L. 93. *Such Youths, &c.*) Pickford, Master, Whitehead, &c.

L. 104. *Byrom—Thyer*) The first of these was the celebrated Author of *My Time O ye Muses*,—a Pastoral—originally published in the 8th Volume of the Spectator, and of several other Pieces, which procured him an extensive and a merited Approbation—the latter a Gentleman of great literary Abilities, the Editor of *Butler's Remains*, and of several Tracts, which did him Honour—To them (I believe Mr. *Lawson* will permit me to say) this School was frequently indebted for little Essays and Copies of Verses.—I have often been happy (and who that was acquainted with them was not) in their Society—they are gone—but whilst the Pleasures of Convivial Friendship and inoffensive Hilarity—whilst sterling Wit or solid Learning shall be deemed of Value, their Reputations must survive in the Memories of their Friends, and of those who have been gratified by the Perusal of their Writings.



